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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/902,077	07/09/2001	Steven Henry Buss	15431-US	7792

7590

07/16/2003

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EXAMINER

KOVACS, ARPAD F

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3671

DATE MAILED: 07/16/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/902,077

Applicant(s)

BUSS ET AL.

Examiner

Árpád Fábián Kovács

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 01 July 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1, 4, 6 and 8-14 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 6 and 8-14 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1 and 4 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1, 4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by John Deere Catalog PC 2725, "Mower Deck Baffles" and accompanied by 9 Photographs of decks equipped by the baffles shown in the catalog (both provided/cited by Applicant).

It is noted that the disclosure states in Paragraph 23, that the combined stream ref 62 & right stream ref 60 are joined together and substantially redirected by the strip ref 42, and further stated that the majority of the right stream ref 60 is thrown underneath the strip ref 42. Therefore, some of the right stream and combined stream travel together (joined), while the rest of right stream and combined stream may travel and/or separated by the strip ref 42.

Similarly in re claim 1, as shown in Photograph 5 or baffle D25, baffle portions/segments ref 2 & 4, may separate streams created by the blades in different chambers as claimed; also, in Photograph 1, or baffle D3, ref 5 (the exit chamber segment starting at the chamber nearest to the exit/discharge opening, the central segment of the baffle in the centrally located chamber).

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In re claim 4, as shown in the above Photographs, the baffle is joined to at least a first and a second of the plurality of chambers and extends laterally inwardly from the front walls of those chambers.

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Allowabl Subject Matter

3. Claims 6, 8-14 are allowed.

Response to Arguments

4. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1, 4, 6, 8-14 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

It is noted that the Applicant indicated that an IDS was filed on 7/1/2003, however there was no IDS filed. The Examiner notes the two translations documents provided for earlier filed foreign documents.

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Conclusion

5. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Stewart et al., Mullet et al.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Árpád Fábián Kovács whose telephone number is 703 308 5897. The examiner can normally be reached on Mo-Th.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Thomas B. Will can be reached on 703 308 3870. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703 305 7687 for regular communications and 703 308 8623 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703 308 1113.



Árpád Fábián Kovács
Examiner
Art Unit 3671

ÁFK
July 12, 2003